

Building a Biomedical Knowledge Network

**Board on Life Sciences
Division on Environmental and Life Sciences
and
Board on Research Data and Information
Division on Policy and Global Affairs**

National Academy of Sciences

Proposal

Summary

The Board on Life Sciences and the Board on Research Data and Information propose to jointly undertake a consensus study on Building a Biomedicine Knowledge Network. The study would be done pursuant to the following task statement:

1. Define information commons, knowledge network, and other key related terms as used in biomedical and other scientific research. Provide different examples in the public and private sectors and in partnerships. When and where have these approaches been useful in biomedicine or in other areas of research?
2. Identify and consider the factors in determining the benefits and drawbacks of each of the types of approaches identified in #1, above, including: the timescales to achieving core functionalities, the scale and scope of the approaches, the institutional models, the legal mechanisms, the overall sustainability of the approaches, and an assessment of the ability to provide optimal benefits rapidly to patients, while respecting privacy and proprietary concerns.
3. Based on the foregoing tasks, develop consensus conclusions and recommendations for approaches aimed at building biomedical information commons and knowledge network.

The report would be published 18 months from receipt of funding for the study.